



# OPERATIONS MEMO

## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



July 5, 2016

GOM 2016-16

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler   
Chief, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **2016-17 Cal Grant Renewal**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces that the Cal Grant renewal process was successfully completed.

- Approximately 234,606 current Cal Grant recipients are eligible to continue receiving their Cal Grants for the 2016-17 award year.

### 2016-17 Renewal Process

- Renewal applicants must meet specific financial eligibility criteria based on the year in which they were initially awarded. See [Income and Asset Ceiling](#) information for the 2016-17 academic year on the Commission's website.
- Students must have received a 2015-16 payment or have leave of absence codes posted.
- Students who do not have qualifying 2015-16 transactions posted will be withdrawn from the program during the year-end reconciliation process in September.
- Students who were eligible for both Cal Grant A and B in the initial award year, but failed to meet the lower income and asset ceiling of Cal Grant B, are eligible for Cal Grant A in the renewal year.
- Students who did not meet the income and asset ceilings and/or minimum need criteria during the renewal process were notified of their disqualification. Students may view their Cal Grant status at [www.webgrants4students.org](http://www.webgrants4students.org).

As stated in [GOM 2014-33](#) starting with the 2015-16 academic year, and each year thereafter, the following changes will be in effect:

- Any Cal Grant recipient who was ineligible for a renewal award during the prior year because he or she exceeded the income and asset ceilings or did not demonstrate financial need, will be eligible to receive a renewal award if:
  - The recipient meets all eligibility requirements for 2016-17 renewal and;
  - The recipient has remaining program award eligibility
  - The recipient's program eligibility will be reduced by one full-time equivalent academic year.

**2016-17 Award Amounts**

Renewal award amounts are determined by both school segment and the year in which individual students entered the program. The tuition and fees at Private/Public-Other Non-Profit and Vocational/Private for Profit segments have remained the same from prior years. However, the Cal Grant B access award for all segments has increased to \$1,670 for the 2016-17 year.

**Renewal Reports**

The WebGrants "Data Transfer" screen contains reports which identify both disqualified students and those whose renewal eligibility is unable to be determined:

- Unable to Determine Renewal Eligibility: This report identifies students with 2015-16 Cal Grant award offers who were not renewed because qualifying transaction codes (Payment or Leave of Absence) were not reported for the 2015-16 award year.
- Disqualified Renewal Students: This report identifies those 2015-16 Cal Grant students disqualified for not meeting financial eligibility requirements.

Please contact Institutional Support if you have questions regarding renewing students' eligibility for Cal Grant awards.

**Need to contact us?**

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)

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